

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ANKARA 01687 080757Z
ACTION NEA-07

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 1687

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FOR NEA, ATHERTON AND PALMER FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CENTO, PFOR
SUBJECT: U.S. SUPPORT FOR CENTO

REF: (A) STATE 38929; (B) ANKARA 1094

1. I KNOW THAT YOU SHARE MY DEEP CONCERN ABOUT THE U.S.
RENEGING ON ITS COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT CENTO PROJECTS.
WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE ADMINISTRATION ATTACHES PARTICULAR
IMPORTANCE TO KEEPING COMMITMENTS TO ALLIED NATIONS AND,
FOR THIS REASON, WE WOULD HOPE THAT OUR PLEDGES TO SUPPORT
THE CENTO MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS AND THE PAKISTANI
CIVILIAN MICROWAVE PROJECT WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED SIMPLY
TO FALL BY THE WAYSIDE. SPECIFICALLY, IF FUNDING IS NOT
AVAILABLE THIS YEAR, WE RECOMMEND THAT WE (A) NOT RPT NOT
WITHDRAW THE PLEDGES MADE BY THE FORMER SECRETARY OF
STATE TO SUPPORT THESE PROJECTS, (B) DEFER IMPLEMENTATION
AND SEEK FUNDING NEXT YEAR, AND (C) IN THE MEANTIME,
FURTHER DEVELOP CRITERIA FOR THESE PROJECTS THAT WILL
MEET THE OBJECTIONS OF OMB, AID AND OTHERS INVOLVED.

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WM ON THE MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM, FOR EXAMPLE,
WE MIGHT SEEK TO MULTILATERALIZE THE PROJECT ALONG THE
LINES OF THE NATO INTEGRATED COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM. IN
ADDITION TO OUR INPUT, CENTO ALLIES COULD BEAR LOCAL
COSTS, SOME FOREIGN EXCHANGE EXPENDITURES FOR EQUIPMENT,
TECHNICAL SERVICES AND TRAINING, AND DEFRAID THE COSTS
ABOVE \$5 MILLION FOR FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT.

3. ON THE PAKISTANI CIVILIAN MICROWAVE LINK, AID'S FUNDING CRITERIA MIGHT BE MET BY SEEKING OUTSIDE SOURCES SUCH AS IBRD, ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, AND GRANT DONATIONS IN ADDITION TO THE MAXIMUM \$500,000 PLEDGED BY THE SECRETARY. SUCH ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF FUNDING MIGHT BE EXPLORED DURING THE MARCH 19-21 ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING AND DURING THE MARCH 25-30 VISIT OF SECRETARY-GENERAL BAYULKEN TO WASHINGTON.

4. FINALLY, I BELIEVE THERE IS NO PLACEBO -- SUCH AS A U.S. INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT A DIFFERENT PROJECT -- THAT WILL ELIMINATE THE CONCERN OF THE REGIONAL COUNTRIES OVER A FORMAL RENEGING ON THESE PLEDGES. THERE ARE NO RPT NO ATTRACTIVE PROJECTS NOW ON DECK, BUT THE U.S. OFFICERS SECONDED TO CENTO HAVE BEEN WORKING DILIGENTLY TO RATIONALIZE THE PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING PROCESS IN AN EFFORT TO IDENTIFY WORTHY PROJECTS THAT WE MIGHT SUPPORT. WE WOULD NOT WISH, THEREFORE, TO SHORT-CIRCUIT THIS PLANNING PROCESS BY SUPPORTING A PROJECT (SUCH AS THE SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT REPAIR FACILITY) THAT MAY NOT BE COMPLETELY IN LINE WITH WHAT THE SECRETARIAT HAS RECOMMENDED AND GOVERNMENTS HAVE AGREED TO.
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